

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
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November 2006



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Dismal Swamp

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds



Pine Warbler
David Schneider

Introduction



This goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, established by Congress in 1974, consists of over 111,200 acres of forested wetlands. Lake Drummond, at 3,100 acres is the larger of two natural lakes found in Virginia, lies at the refuge’s center. The refuge was established to protect and restore the biologically important Great Dismal Swamp ecosystem. Within that mission a primary concern is to provide protected habitat for migratory birds.

Birding is popular in the refuge from April through June, but is best from mid-April to mid-May, the peak of the spring neo-tropical bird migration. As many as thirty five species of warblers have been observed and provide the principal attraction.

Downy Woodpecker



David Schneider

This brochure list 213 birds that have been identified on the refuge, and is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologists Union Checklist.

Most birds are migratory and their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

Season

Sp	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a species which is very numerous
c	common	likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	may be present but not every year
acc	accidental	seen only once

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge
Italics indicate threatened/endangered species

Swans – Geese – Ducks

	Sp	S	F	W
___ West Indian Whistling-Duck	acc			
___ Snow Goose	c		u	c
___ • Canada Goose	c	u	c	c
___ Brant		r	r	
___ Tundra Swan	c		u	c
___ • Wood Duck	c	c	c	c
___ Gadwall	o		o	o
___ American Wigeon	o		o	o
___ American Black Duck	u	o	u	u
___ • Mallard	u		u	u
___ Blue-winged Teal	r		u	r
___ Northern Pintail	o		o	o
___ Green-winged Teal	u		u	u
___ Canvasback	r		r	o
___ Redhead	r		o	o
___ Ring-necked Duck	c		c	c
___ Lesser Scaup	c		u	c
___ Bufflehead	u		u	o
___ Common Goldeneye	r			
___ • Hooded Merganser	c	r	c	c
___ Common Merganser	o			o

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Red-breasted Merganser _____	o			o
___ Ruddy Duck _____	u		c	c

Gallinaceous Birds

___ • Wild Turkey _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Bobwhite _____	c	c	c	c

Loons

___ Common Loon _____	o		r	o
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Grebes

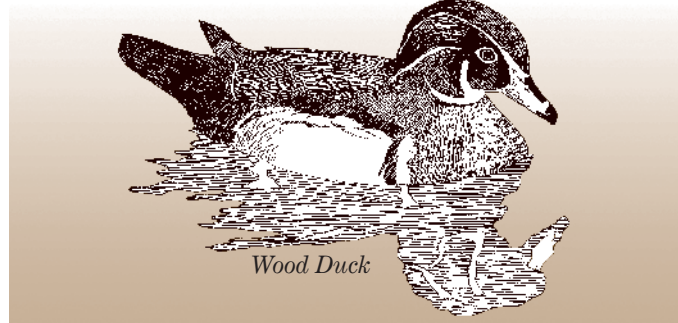
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u		u	u
___ Horned Grebe _____	r		r	o

Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	c	c
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Anhingas

___ Anhinga _____	o	r		
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Bitterns – Herons – Egrets

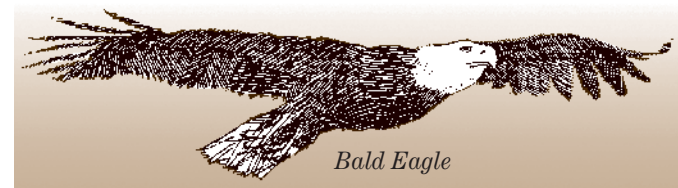
___ American Bittern _____	r	r	r	r
___ • Great Blue Heron _____	c	a	c	c
___ • Great Egret _____	c	a	o	o
___ Snowy Egret _____	o	o		
___ Little Blue Heron _____	r			
___ Cattle Egret _____	o	o	r	
___ • Green Heron _____	c	c	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	u		
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	o		

Ibises

___ White Ibis _____	r	r	r	
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New World Vultures

___ • Black Vulture _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Turkey Vulture _____	a	a	a	a



Osprey - Kites - Hawks - Eagles

___ Osprey _____	u		r	
___ Swallow-tailed Kite _____	r			
___ Mississippi Kite _____	r	o		
___ • Bald Eagle _____	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Harrier _____	u		o	
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	u
___ • Cooper's Hawk _____	u	r	c	u
___ • Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
___ Broad-winged Hawk _____	u	u	u	
___ • Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	u		c
___ Golden Eagle _____			r	

Falcons

___ • American Kestrel _____	c	r	u	c
___ Merlin _____	r			

Rails

___ • King Rail _____	r	r	r	r
___ Virginia Rail _____				r
___ Sora _____	r	r		
___ American Coot _____	o			o

Plovers

___ Semipalmated Plover _____	r		r	
___ Killdeer _____	c	c	c	c

Avocets

___ American Avocet _____			acc	
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Sandpipers - Phalaropes

___ Greater Yellowlegs _____			o	o
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____			o	o
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Whimbrel _____	r			
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Western Sandpiper _____				r

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Least Sandpiper _____			r	r
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____			r	
___ Common Snipe _____	o		o	o
___ • American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	r
___ Red-necked Phalarope _____	acc			

Skuas - Jaegers – Gulls – Terns

___ Laughing Gull _____	u	u		
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	c		c	c
___ Herring Gull _____	u			u
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____				o
___ Great Black-backed Gull _____	o			o
___ Caspian Tern _____	o			
___ Royal Tern _____	o		u	
___ Common Tern _____			o	
___ Forster's Tern _____			o	
___ Black Tern _____			r	
___ Bonaparte' s Gull _____				o

Doves

___ Rock Pigeon _____	r	o		
___ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c

Cuckoos

___ Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o		o	
___ • Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	u	

Typical Owls

___ • Eastern Screech-Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Barred Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl _____				r

Nightjars

___ Common Nighthawk _____	r		r	
___ • Chuck-will's-widow _____	u	u	u	
___ Whip-poor-will _____	o	o		



Wild Turkey

Swifts

___ • Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c	
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Hummingbirds

___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	u	
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Kingfishers

___ • Belted Kingfisher _____	c	c	c	c
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Screech Owl

Woodpeckers

___ • Red-headed Woodpecker _____	o	o	o	o
___ • Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	c		o	c
___ • Downy Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Hairy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Flicker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c

Tyrant Flycatchers

___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	a	a		
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	r			
___ • Acadian Flycatcher _____	c	c		
___ Alder Flycatcher _____	r			
___ Willow Flycatcher _____	r			
___ Least Flycatcher _____	r			
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	u	u	u	

Vireos

___ • White-eyed Vireo _____	a	a	c	u
___ • Yellow-throated Vireo _____	c	c	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo _____	u		u	u
___ Warbling Vireo _____	o		r	
___ Philadelphia Vireo _____	o		r	
___ • Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	u	

Crows - Jays

___ • Blue Jay _____	c	c	c	c
___ • American Crow _____	c	c	c	c
___ Fish Crow _____	c	u	u	c

	Sp	S	F	W
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin _____	u	u		
___ • Tree Swallow _____	u	o	u	
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	u	u	o	
___ Bank Swallow _____	r			
___ Cliff Swallow _____	r		r	
___ • Barn Swallow _____	c	c		

Titmice – Chickadees

___ • Carolina Chickadee _____	a	a	a	a
___ Black-capped Chickadee _____			r	r
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c

Nuthatches

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____				o
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Brown-headed Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u

Creepers

___ Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u
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Wrens

___ • Carolina Wren _____	a	a	a	a
___ House Wren _____	o			
___ Winter Wren _____	u		u	u
___ Marsh Wren _____			r	r



Kinglets

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		o	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	c		u	c

Old World Warblers

___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	c	c	u	
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Thrushes

___ • Eastern Bluebird _____	u	o	u	u
___ Veery _____	u			
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	u		o	
___ Bicknell's Thrush _____	r			
___ Swainson's Thrush _____	u		o	
___ Hermit Thrush _____	c		u	c
___ • Wood Thrush _____	c	c		
___ • American Robin _____	a	u	a	a

Mimic Thrushes

___ • Gray Catbird _____	c	a	a	c
___ • Northern Mockingbird _____	u	c	u	u
___ • Brown Thrasher _____	u	c	c	u

Starlings

___ • European Starling _____	u	o	u	u
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Pipits

___ American Pipit _____	r			r
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Waxwings

___ Cedar Waxwing _____	c	u	u	c
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Wood Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler _____	u		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler _____	r			
___ Tennessee Warbler _____	r		o	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____	u		u	u
___ Nashville Warbler _____	r		o	
___ • Northern Parula _____	c	c	u	
___ • Yellow Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	u		o	
___ Magnolia Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Cape May Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	c		c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	c		c	c
___ • Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____	o		o	
___ • Yellow-throated Warbler _____	c	c	u	
___ • Pine Warbler _____	a	c	c	c
___ • Prairie Warbler _____	a	a	u	r
___ Palm Warbler _____	u			u



	Sp	S	F	W
Bay-breasted Warbler	o		o	u
Blackpoll Warbler	u		o	
Cerulean Warbler	o			
• Black-and-white Warbler	c	c	c	u
• American Redstart	c	c		
• Prothonotary Warbler	a	a	c	
• Worm-eating Warbler	c	c	u	
• Swainson's Warbler	c	c	u	
• Ovenbird	a	a	c	
Northern Waterthrush	c		r	
• Louisiana Waterthrush	c	c	u	
Kentucky Warbler	r	r	r	
Mourning Warbler	r			
• Common Yellowthroat	a	a	c	u
• Hooded Warbler	a	a	c	
Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
Canada Warbler	o		o	
• Yellow-breasted Chat	c	c	u	

Tanagers

• Summer Tanager	c	c	u
Scarlet Tanager	u	r	u

Sparrows - Towhees

• Eastern Towhee	a	a	a	a
American Tree Sparrow			r	r
• Chipping Sparrow	u	u	o	e
Field Sparrow	u			u
Vesper Sparrow			r	r
Savannah Sparrow	u		u	u
Fox Sparrow	u			u
• Song Sparrow	e	u	e	e
Lincoln's Sparrow	o			o
Swamp Sparrow	e	r	e	e
White-throated Sparrow	a		e	a
White-crowned Sparrow	o			o
Dark-eyed Junco	a		e	a

Cardinals - Grosbeaks - Allies

_____	• Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
_____	Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u			
_____	• Blue Grosbeak _____	u	u	u	
_____	• Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	u	

Blackbirds – Orioles

Bobolink	u		u	
• Red-winged Blackbird	c	u	c	a
Eastern Meadowlark	r	o	o	o
Rusty Blackbird	u		u	u
Brewer's Blackbird	r			r
• Common Grackle	c	c	c	a
Boat-tailed Grackle	o		o	o
• Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	c

_____	• Orchard Oriole _____	u	u		
_____	Baltimore Oriole _____	u		o	r

Finches

_____	Purple Finch _____	0		0
_____	• House Finch _____	u	0	u
_____	Pine Siskin _____	0		0
_____	• American Goldfinch _____	c	u	c c

*Red-tailed
Hawk*



NOTES

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

We hope you enjoy your visit. Please send us notice of your special sightings by mail, or email to our web site. Be sure to include your name, date, time, and location.

This brochure was partially funded by the
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Wildlife Refuge.